

REMARKS

Responsive to the Office Action mailed March 20, 2006, Applicants have studied the Examiner's comments and the cited art. Claims 38–54 are currently pending. In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance.

Double Patenting

Claims 38–54 were rejected on the ground of nonstatutory double patenting over claims 1–37 of U.S. Patent No. 6,101,324. Applicants filed a terminal disclaimer on July 17, 2000 that overcomes this rejection. A copy of the terminal disclaimer as filed is included with this Response for the convenience of the Examiner. Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 38–54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Culbertson et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,168,481, in view of Bures, U.S. Patent No. 4,986,662. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Applicants have corrected the priority claim of the present application by submission of an Application Data Sheet. The present application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 07/474,682, filed February 6, 1990, now U.S. Patent No. 6,101,324, which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 07/281,903, filed December 6, 1988, now abandoned, which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 06/805,888, filed December 6, 1985, now abandoned. Therefore the present application has a priority date of December 6, 1985, which predates the Culbertson and Bures references cited by the Examiner. Those references are therefore not prior art to the present application and are improper to use as references under 35 U.S.C. § 103. For this reason, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all issues and rejections have been adequately addressed, that all claims are allowable, and that the case should be advanced to issuance.

If the Examiner has any questions or wishes to discuss the claims, Applicants encourage the Examiner to call the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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